



# THE OTTER REALM

[www.OtterRealm.net](http://www.OtterRealm.net)

MARCH 3, 2004

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY MONTEREY BAY'S STUDENT-RUN NEWSPAPER DEDICATED TO INFORMING THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY

V.11 No.9

## Inside



Cal Grant, page 4

## News

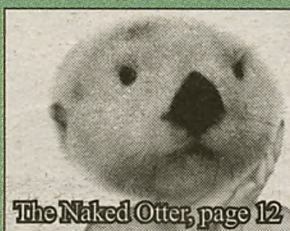
Housing Rates.....	2
Book Fees.....	3
FAFSA.....	4
Conserv. Books.....	5
Study Abroad.....	5



Senior Night, page 7

## Sports

Athletic Events.....	6
Womens Rugby.....	6
Sports Referendum.....	6
Surfing.....	7
Uncommon Sense.....	8
Intramurals.....	9



The Naked Otter, page 12

## A&E

Silent Surrealism.....	10
Artists Series.....	10
Adam's Picks.....	11
Rate my Professor.....	12
Opinions & Letters.....	14
Otter and Squid.....	15
Editorial.....	15
Student Spotlight.....	16
Person on Campus.....	16

## Marina to build University Villages



DESIGN SKETCHES PROVIDED BY DAHLING GROUP

By Adam Joseph, Managing Editor  
ADAM\_JOSEPH@CSUMB.EDU

A dog park, a village square with a clock tower and a band shell, and a boardwalk providing direct access to the beach

are just a few of the plans from the City of Marina's largest project ever: the University Villages. Deconstruction is set to begin, removing asbestos from the old buildings and the lead that has sunken into the ground, in July of 2005.

Spanning over 28,000 square acres, Fort Ord takes up most of the small city covered with abandoned barracks, concrete fallout shelters, and deserted military family housing. Through the birth of CSUMB, some of the "ghost town" has become revamped and

populated, but that leaves over 90 percent of the grounds left alone with only the spirits that once fought for our nation.

Christine di Iorio, project planner for the University Villages

VILLAGES continued on page 2

## Open doors invite theft in res halls

By Katrice Miller, Staff Reporter  
KATRICE\_MILLER@CSUMB.EDU

CSUMB students are being constantly victimized inside their homes. The Residence Halls have been host to five counts of reported grand theft since Jan. 1.

"There's been no force involved with these crimes," said Lt. Jay McTaggart of the University Police Department, who said the two categories of theft were clothes and laptop computers. McTaggart urges students to be attentive of their personal belongings

and valuables.

"In the cases of the laundry room thefts, the only solution is the one students don't want to hear: don't leave. Bring entertainment; treat the laundry room like you would a Laundromat," said McTaggart.

On Jan. 30 a laptop computer was stolen from a first floor room in 206. The resident of this room left her door open to visit a friend. Upon her return a short while later, she noticed her laptop was stolen.

Days later, on Feb. 3 two more laptops were stolen from

a 206 residence hall room. This crime spree has residents up in arms. Students have started a "Neighborhood Watch" program to prevent further thefts within the residence halls.

"A lot of this is preventable," McTaggart said. "Students don't report when their keys are lost, or they prop their doors because it takes an extra two seconds. It makes it easy to get things stolen."

"If people would report lost keys and un-prop their doors, thieves would have a harder time gaining entry to rooms," McTaggart said.

Theft is not just a Residence Hall issue. The new North Quad housing project has had its share of thefts as well. Within the past

THEFTS continued on page 3



GRAPHIC BY SARA DOWE



# News

## Campus housing costs rise, still cheap

By Marian Muhammad, Staff Reporter  
 MARIAN\_MUHAMMAD@CSUMB.EDU

As CSUMB's housing rates continue to increase over the years, students try their luck with off-campus housing but aren't always getting a better deal.

The average CSU houses 15-20 percent of their students on-campus but at CSUMB approximately 60 percent of students are living on-campus, according to Residential Life. Even though 60 percent may seem like a large number, it may plummet depending on how students find life living off the Ord.

"Some students can live cheaper off campus" according to Andy Klingelhofer, dean of Student Life. Although the cost of local apartments can be extremely expensive, three to four students living together "could possibly live cheaper."

The students who currently reside on-campus are able to choose between living in the Residence Halls, the North Quad Suites, or the Frederick Park apartments, depending on their age, number of units and living situations.

Student housing comes equipped with several amenities and utilities such as laundry services or laundry hook-ups for those who live in Fredrick Park

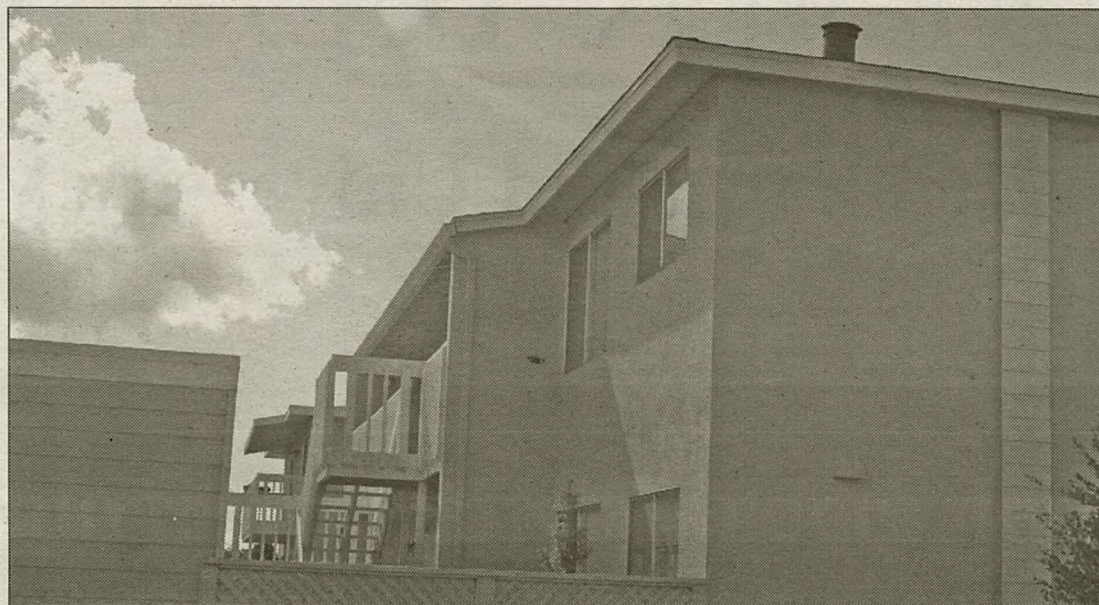


PHOTO BY CHAD GHIRON

An off-campus option on Reservation Road.

apartments, Internet access, kitchens/kitchenettes per floor/suite (in newer housing only), and cable access all for one flat rate.

"Free cable, free utilities, free cable internet and free transportation. It's a sweet deal; take advantage of it while you can," said HCOM senior Carmina Martinez.

In some off-campus housing, students are not given the luxury of having these amenities and utilities for free. Their leasing agreements have them paying a separate fee for some for these luxuries that on-campus residents get for free.

Extra costs off-campus students pay adds to already expensive

rent. "I pay more off campus than I would on campus," said HCOM senior Elizabeth Hudson via e-mail.

Students living on campus also have access to the campus shuttle for those who may be traveling to and from the east campus housing and access to the campus library where students can easily check out and return library books.

The campus police station is also nearby for any students who may need police assistance or need to report a crime they have been involved in or have seen occur.

"National research shows that students who live on-campus at least one year do better aca-

demically," said Klingelhofer. Students who live on-campus have better access to faculty and other students in their classes.

Although the campus is well equipped with resources for students who live on campus, each year students still move off campus paying rates as high as \$1,200 a month, according to recent rental listings.

"There's a percent every year that move off campus; I'm sure some of them do it for cost reasons," said Klingelhofer. "We do not hear very often that it is the cost."

Some students live off campus because of family reasons and convenient housing locations. "I live off campus because I lived

with my sister who wasn't a student at CSUMB," said Hudson.

Since the renovation of new Residence Hall 211 the Foundation of CSUMB has approved an annual rate increase to cover the cost of the building. Each year due to the high cost of the project student housing fees will be increased by 3-5 percent each year until the buildings are fully paid off.

Students living in the residence halls are paying \$1,920-\$2,955 a semester depending on the room occupancy. Those living in the North Quad Suites are paying \$2,310-\$3,040 for single and double rooms.

Students and families living in the Frederick Park apartments are paying \$1,045 per month for the whole unit. "In other communities, rates are so expensive it disrupts the rent structure for working families," said Klingelhofer.

Construction money for student housing comes only from the rent, said Klingelhofer. Students who are not able to pay the housing rates are encouraged to look towards financial aid to help cover their housing fees.

"Financial aid sets a housing portion based on our rates," said Klingelhofer. For those students who do not qualify, "the options truly are limited."

Scenic locations and family convenience may be what drive some students to move off-campus, but it is the students living on-campus who in most cases get the better deal even with annual rent increases.

## Villages

...from page 1

Project, pinpointed "connectivity" as the overall goal of the billion-dollar undertaking. Coincidentally, one of CSUMB's objectives ever since its opening has been to encourage its students to build relationships with the school's surrounding community.

di Iorio sees the project, "as a tremendous boost in economic development for the city as well as Monterey County."

"About 18,400 new jobs" will be created by the year 2015, according to the Future Directions

Report. As well as coffee shops, bookstores, a movie theater and over 35,000-square feet of business park, new types of retail are being considered like Ikea and Best Buy.

Through the years, many concerns have arisen that there aren't enough access points to the Marina beaches. One of the project's goals is to regain some of the old bridge access points, and possibly one of the under-highway tunnels. A large conference-style hotel and a boutique hotel totaling an estimated 500 guest rooms will be built with the hope of drawing some beach tourism to Marina.

A state park is planned for the beach dunes area of Marina with three-day parking areas as well as over 100 campsites and a campground.

Beyond the newly constructed Second Avenue, the old artillery warehouses are going to be made into an "arts and culture district." Art studios with sky-lights will be used by the students with the possibility of CSUMB's own art museum.

An aspect of this project that is "really progressive" according to di Iorio is its construction of 1,237 residential units covering the financial standings of those

who fall into the lower class, middle-class, and the upper-class. The majority of the housing will be two or three bedroom "duets," or townhouse duplexes, designed to resemble quintessential quaint Victorian beach front housing.

"Connectivity," as an overall concept of the project, has been meticulously worked into every step of the planning. All 447 acres of construction include plans of integrating commerce, residential areas and CSUMB, with connecting round-about roads, a new network of bike paths, several "easy access points" to the beach and common parks to be shared

between the students and the residents of University Villages.

The Master Project Plan highlights certain "key open spaces" within the 447-acre area to be used to create community focuses like fairs, farmer's markets, and a Greek Theater for live music.

The University Villages Project hopes to serve as a model of "community design, sustainable development, land use and housing, economic development, open spaces, recreation, and transportation" for all the military bases that are closing in the country.



# 'Gimmicks' increase textbook costs, students pay

By Alex Chapman, News Editor  
ALEXANDER\_CHAPMAN@CSUMB.EDU

CSUMB students who feel robbed after required textbook purchases have new reports validating their feelings of violation.

"Textbooks are a significant expense for students and the textbook publishers use gimmicks to needlessly inflate costs," said Dave Rosenfeld, 31, California Public Interest Research Group (CALPIRG) program director.

Textbook prices have increased 71 percent over the past 10 years, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics Producer Price Index. Overall inflation rates were less than a third textbook inflation.

"Higher education should be held to a higher standard," Rosenfeld said. CALPIRG's latest survey "Rip-Off 101" attacks textbook publishers' pricing practices.

The complaints include fast-increasing textbook prices, the inflating effect of new editions, unnecessary extra material bundling and higher prices in the United States than elsewhere. "These gimmicks should not be tolerated," Rosenfeld said.

CSUMB bookstore manager Kevin Haskin agreed. In his five years as bookstore manager he's had to intercede when angry students with register shock throw credit cards at the staff.

"Prices go up; it's a constant with life," Haskin said. "It's understandable from the publishers' point of view because they put a lot of money and energy into a new textbook."



Textbook prices empty student wallets.

PHOTO BY CHAD GHIRON

Between 1992 and 2004 the higher education book publishing industry posted a growth of \$1.8 billion, according to newly released Association of American Publishers figures.

Haskins said he tries to keep costs down with used books but is hampered by industry practices. "They have to combat the used book industry," Haskins said. "The only way to do that is to come out with new editions."

Last year the fifth edition of publisher Thomson Learning's "Calculus: Early Transcendentals" faced heavy criticism for superficial changes and high price. Over 542 math professors nationwide, including many CSU math pro-

fessors, wrote Thomson Learning a complaint letter.

"Compounded with the overall recent increases in tuition and other college costs, we are increasingly concerned for our students' ability to either pay for college or to fully take advantage of all of the educational opportunities available to them while at college," the professors wrote.

At least one CSUMB math professor agreed.

"In the last few years we've seen minor changes prompting new editions," said David Pierce, CSUMB math department professor. Pierce said in his experience the extra materials bundled with textbooks are "superfluous." These educa-

tion materials add an average of 10 percent to the cost of textbooks, according to CALPIRG.

"Prices are moving in the wrong direction," Pierce said. "Many students say they simply can't afford it."

American students face further disadvantage in being charged more than foreign students for the exact same textbook, according to Rosenfeld. "Rip-Off 101" gives as an example publisher

Pearson's "Calculus, 8th Edition" which is \$62 more expensive in the United States than in the United Kingdom.

"It presents a tipping point for the students who have the hardest time affording education, driven by nothing more than gimmicks," said Rosenfeld.

Some students don't feel the pinch. HCOM senior Jason Tunila, 21, receives no financial aid but said he was disappointed he couldn't find a used edition recently.

Tunila's bought all textbooks because he "had to have them" but admitted that were he on financial aid he'd feel differently. Textbooks "are not too overly priced but at times there [are] a few books that are."

One strategy is economic pressure.

Professors balance price and quality in choosing textbooks, according to Pierce, who said prices are "ridiculous."

Haskins said there's little the CSUMB Bookstore can help due to contractual profit margins that don't fluctuate. He encouraged students and faculty to use used-book buyback to their advantage.

"The publishers are never going to stop doing what they're doing unless they face economic pressure," Rosenfeld said. "Students and faculty have to work together and push back."

## Thefts

...from page 1

two months, thieves have stolen over \$1,000 worth of clothing from North Quad laundry facilities.

Freshman Marco Oliva had a pair of expensive designer jeans stolen from the 302 laundry room. He had taken them from the washer and put them in the dryer. When he returned for his clothes,

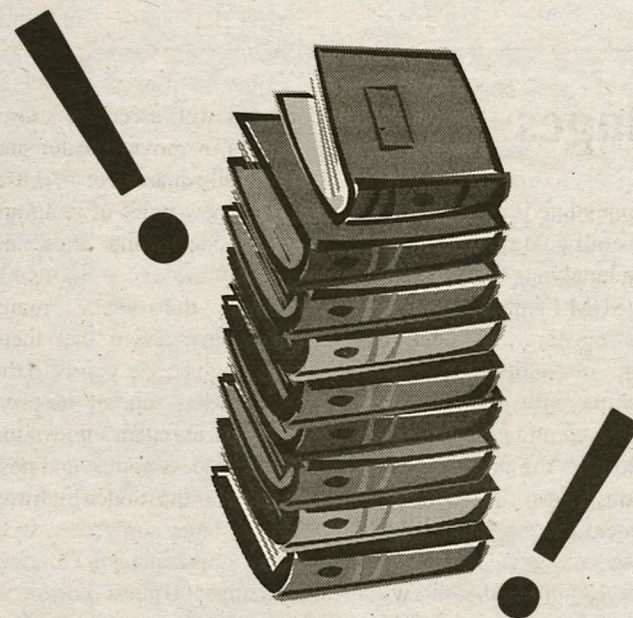
they were gone.

"I don't know why someone would want my jeans. They took my favorite pair of jeans but left the most expensive pair in there, and they took some shirts too," said Oliva, who believes the culprit was female. "How many guys do you know with a 28-inch waist?"

These recent thefts are examples of a few of the most common thefts within the Residential

Halls. Business junior and senior Resident Advisor David Lauricella urges students to watch out for themselves and each other.

"The thefts that have happened within the halls are avoidable. If students would not prop their doors and the lobby doors and remove their clothes from the washers and dryers when they are finished, there could be less problems," Lauricella said.



GRAPHIC BY SARA DOWE



# Proposed Cal grant increase, tuition on the rise

CSUMB's tuition will be raised 8 percent next year thanks to California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's proposed new 2005-06 budget. Schwarzenegger proposes to balance this by raising the Cal Grant award by 8 percent for public university students.

The proposed budget will also be increasing the K-12 education budget with Schwarzenegger's calling for multi-billion dollar increase in spending over 2004-2005 levels, according to the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO).

"I want to give our students and the teachers everything that they need in order to succeed, and of course money for education is extremely important," Schwarzenegger said in a recent address. "My budget will increase education spending by almost \$3 billion. That means an increase of \$362 for every kindergarten through 12th grade student."

Good news for CSUMB graduates who will become K-12 teachers, but for current students, the fee increases will change the way they pay for college.

The new fee increases may put a strain on students' pockets and shy new students away with the cost of living in Monterey County already high, according to county reports.

With the average total cost of education at about \$10,000 per year, students that rely on Cal Grants will be slightly closer to their learning goal.

"The government is responsible to give equal opportunity to all students and provide everyone the right to go to a CSU," said HCOM junior Natalia Guzman. "The FASFA is set up to help all students pay for college; unfortunately not everyone has that equal opportunity that the FASFA is supposed to give to each student."

In addition to cutting tuition grants, the proposed budget lowers the family income level determining if a student qualifies for a grant. For a family of four, the income level was \$69,000 and has now been lowered to \$60,000, according to the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

"I grew up in a middle class

family, but my mom was a single mom and she has her own bills to pay. It's crazy that I don't qualify for a Cal Grants and instead have to pay back all the money I am receiving to attend college," said Guzman.

The budget includes an \$887 million increase for the state's higher education system, which many regard as the country's most accessible and affordable public higher education systems.

More than over 1.7 million students estimated to attend a CSU, UC or California community college in 2005-2006 will be affected by the fee increases, according to the LAO.

Not only will the fee increases affect public schools, it also places needy private school students in a budget crisis. With tuition already being higher for private schools than at public schools, according to the LAO private students will have \$873 less.



Governor Arnold: the Republican, stands ready with his trustworthy sword in hand to protect the Cal Grants of the Financial Aid student.

## FAFSA: the beautiful and the beastly

By Annette Partida, Staff Reporter  
ANNETTE\_PARTIDA@CSUMB.EDU

Financial aid is on a first come, first serve basis at CSUMB.

Financial aid Associate Director Lou Reinhart stressed the importance of "filing early, because you are competing with all of these people in the United States for a very limited amount of resource."

The March 2 deadline has passed for California State and college aid. However, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) will be open until June 30, 2006.

FAFSA is the basic application for Federal Pell and Cal Grants, Educational Opportunity Program Grants (EOP) and State University Grants. Information collected

is used to determine a student's Expected Family Contribution (EFC).

Congress uses this system to determine the actual dollar amount a student receives in assistance. Financial rewards for each student are based on a complicated formula measuring family size, age, numbers of family members in college and assets.

"Packages of aid and grant funding go to the lowest income families. As you go across the spectrum, families with higher incomes get loans. Some type of aid is available to everybody," Reinhart said.

Everyone can apply, but restrictions apply. Criteria include having no drug convictions and males age 18-25 must register with the

Selective Services.

Without financial aid, some people would never have had the opportunity to attend a university, according to Joe Martinez, 42, and a stock worker for Wal-Mart in Salinas.

Ana Asinc, 29, now an ER nurse for Kaiser in San Francisco and earning \$60 per hour said financial aid "paid for some things."

"[It paid for] classes, books, and some gas for my car, but it didn't pay for everything," Asinc said.

FAFSA Fair Coordinator Terry Murphy holds informational events twice a year at Monterey Peninsula College. "People that don't apply for financial aid don't know what they're missing out on," Murphy said.

Her team assists students with

everything from helping students fill out paperwork to offering free seminars. Money management, applying for scholarships, applying for grants, and protection from identity theft are some of the subjects covered during the biannual fairs.

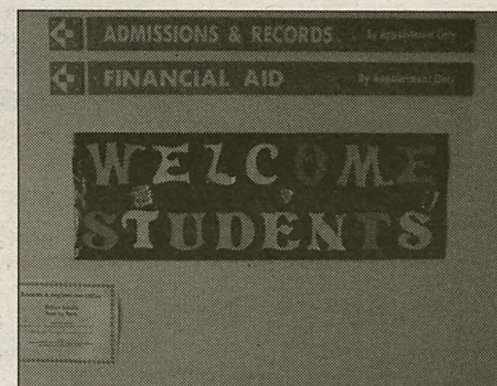
"We want to help as many people as possible. There are many [students] who are unaware and don't know what to do or where to go," Murphy said.

If students don't apply for FAFSA, they won't know what types of money they would have otherwise qualified

for, according to Murphy. Without it, some would have never had the help they needed to meet financial obligation of higher education.

FAFSA is an eight-page form with 100 questions. It is a headache for some, a financial lifeline to education for others and a missed opportunity for many.

"I never applied. I never went to college," Martinez said as he went to stock shelves.



Signs point students toward financial aid. PHOTO BY CHAD GHIRON



# Students make a run for the border

Alex Chapman, New Editor  
ALEXANDER\_CHAPMAN@CSUMB.EDU

&

James Schellenberg, Staff Reporter  
JAMES\_SCHELLENBERG@CSUMB.EDU

Students bored of the Ord have been fleeing to foreign countries thanks to CSU International Programs.

Director of CSU International Programs Leo Van Cleve said the advantages of leaving the USA are many.

"Students can make themselves more competitive in a global economy," Van Cleve said via phone from Long Beach. "We need expertise in languages and we need expertise in other countries."

International Programs offers 100 majors across 50 universities in 18 countries: Australia, Canada, Chile, China, Denmark, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Spain, Sweden, Taiwan, United Kingdom and Zimbabwe.

Students are currently barred from Israel or Zimbabwe due to "health and safety" reasons, according to Van Cleve. CSUMB

campus coordinator Richard Donovan agreed.

"We don't know if Zimbabwe is ever going to reopen," said Donovan, who added international programs generally are "academically sound and as safe and secure as we can make it."

**"We don't know if Zimbabwe is ever going to reopen."**

-RICHARD DONOVAN

Since 1963 over 15,000 CSU students have gone abroad. This year 12 CSUMB students have applied. Donovan expects another five or six.

Although students are starting to spread out the "majority go to Western Europe," according to Van

Cleve. The United Kingdom and Italy are the most popular destinations, according to Donovan.

For students the vital question is affordability. Students pay state university fees for their year abroad.

"Residential credit and financial aid applies," Van Cleve said.

All forms of financial aid, except work-study, are applicable for qualified students, according to the International Programs Web site. Students pay meals, housing and transportation.

To add attraction, Van Cleve said a year abroad gives students "global understanding," making them more

"marketable."

"People in different countries

teach things from a different point of view," Van Cleve said. "You really learn a lot both academically and culturally."

Students experience a new country and are immersed in various peoples, cultures and teachings.

"Students tell us it's a transforming experience," Van Cleve said.

Help's available for arranging life abroad, according to Donovan.

International Programs assists with travel complications and foreign living including visas,

housing, academics, transportation, and health insurance. Help comes from the Host University or CSU.

Applying requires faculty recommendations, transcripts and at least a 2.75 GPA. The deadline for most countries was Feb. 1, but May 1 for Australia and New Zealand. To apply contact campus coordinator Richard Donovan in Building 18 room 169 via first class or at (831) 582-3512.

"Any students who may be interested should come to us as early as possible," Donovan said. "We really want to help."

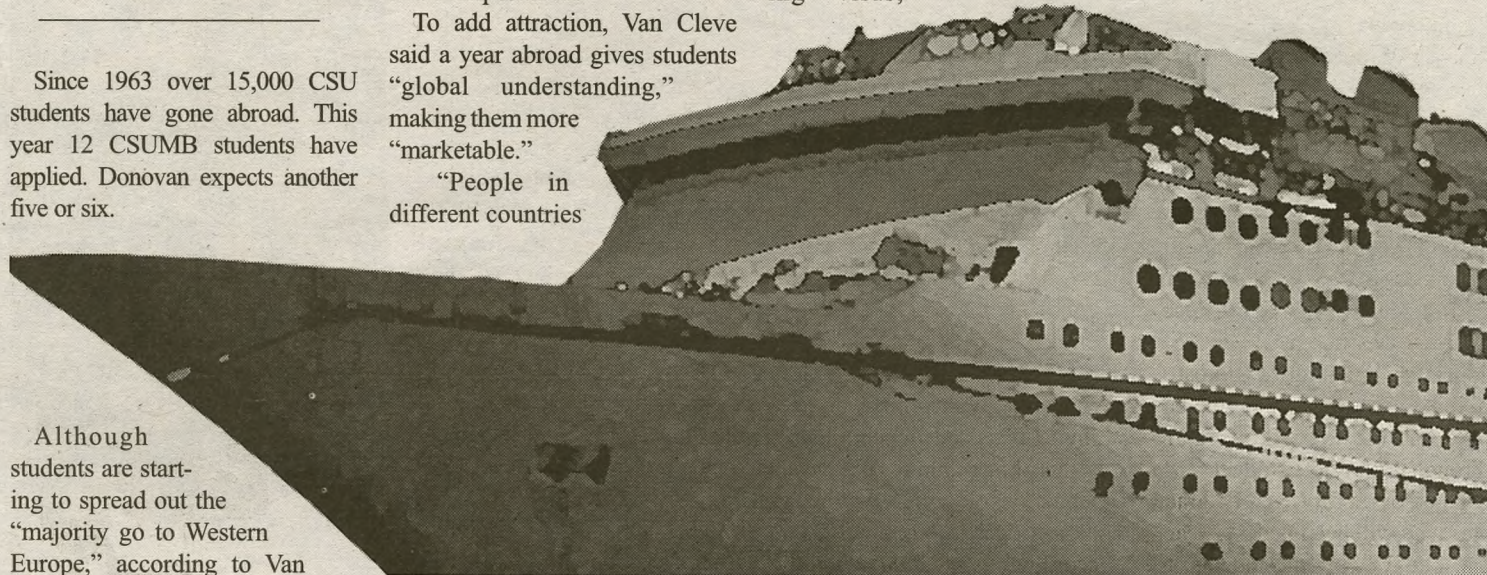


PHOTO MANIPULATED BY RACHEL KANE

## Conservative club has republicans reading

By Kimber Solona, Staff Reporter  
KIMBERREY\_SOLONA@CSUMB.EDU

A new club at CSUMB is showing that conservatism is growing on a campus largely viewed as anything but.

**"We're not looking to fight; we're looking to discuss."**

-CHRISTY COZBY

The Conservative Book Club hoped to meet for the first time on March 4 to socialize and discuss conservative literature. Christy Cozby, club president, expected to use the Black Box Cabaret as a meeting place.

"We want a relaxed and friendly

atmosphere," Cozby said.

Cozby created the book club because she thought learning shouldn't be boring and through this club members can have insightful discussions, gain knowledge and still have fun.

"I just thought this club could kind of just be a forum where students can be a little intellectual and be a little political," Cozby said.

"We don't get a chance to read conservative books in class so this is a great chance to do it," said Kelly Bland, president of the Monterey Bay College Republicans (MBCR). "Everyone's welcome - even liberals."

Cozby wanted to clarify this club is not a place to argue with other students. "We're not looking to fight; we're looking to discuss."

CHHS junior and proud liberal

Denise Buzzini said, "I don't see anything wrong with it; I would have expected a democrat/liberal book club first before a conservative one though."

After the formation of the College Republicans and a major victory for their candidate George

W. Bush in the last presidential election, this club is another step toward increasing the visibility of conservatism on campus.

"I think it helps to balance out the diversity of thought at CSUMB," Bland said.

"These clubs give us a chance

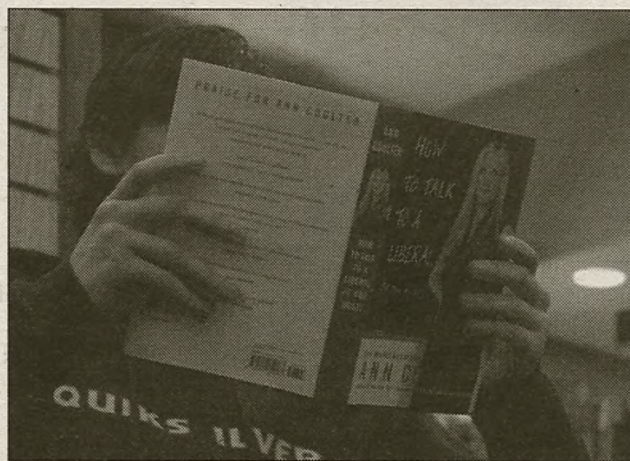
to share our opinion without being frowned upon," said Joseph Ramos, MBCR Vice President.

A book is chosen ahead of time to give members time to read before meeting for the discussion.

If it's any indication of the club's conservatism, the first book for discussion will act as a guide to those who attend the first meeting. Ann Coulter's "How to Talk to a Liberal (If You Must): The World According to Ann Coulter" was chosen as the first read.

Bland said, "The book was recently released and she's a very respected writer in the conservative community."

Cozby thought the book by Coulter, known as a controversial figure because of her take-no-prisoners and unapologetic attitude in the world of politics, was a great choice. "She sparks a lot of emotion to people. You either love her or hate her."



Conservative checks out Republican reading.

PHOTO BY CHAD GHIRON



# S p o r t s

## Uncommon Sense



By Darrell Hirashima, Sports Editor  
DARRELL\_HIRASHIMA@CSUMB.EDU

Everyone can take the easy way out.

When a sports referendum to tack on an additional \$25 to semester fees goes to vote March 9-10, CSUMB students can all do something very easy. Well, they actually have a few easy things to choose from.

The easiest thing to do would be to vote it down without a second thought, likening the mere mention of new fees to a declaration of tyranny or a vampiric bloodletting. Nobody wants to pay more than they are paying now; that's a given. So holding on to \$25, and not looking to support CSUMB's athletic and recreational programs, would indeed be the easiest thing to do.

The second easiest thing to do would be to give up one night of drinking — half a night of drinking if you're in downtown Monterey — or give up one extra DVD, just to be able to say that when your college tried to turn the corner and present itself on the national stage, you were there for them.

CSUMB's mission is to serve historically underrepresented college students. Last time I checked, women have a long history of being underrepresented. Title IX of the Education Acts of 1972 was a decision that sought to bridge the gap between men and women in terms of quality education.

By ensuring proportional athletic opportunities, colleges opened doors for young women around the country to develop confidence, teamwork, healthy lifestyles and problem solving skills in the arena of sports, just as their male counterparts had always been allowed to do.

CSUMB is a perfect example of how Title IX was able to take classic standards for collegiate

UNCOMMON continued on page 8

## Women's rugby readies for Banana Slugs

By Paul Diecidue, Staff Reporter  
PAUL\_DIECIDUE@CSUMB.EDU

The CSUMB women's rugby team plays their third game of the season this Saturday, March 5 at noon vs. UC Santa Cruz (3-0) at the CSUMB Soccer Complex.

Otter rugby, which is affiliated with the Northern California Rugby Football Union, has been open to all female athletes since it began as a club in 1997. Currently with 21 members, half of them returnees, the team hones their skills on Wednesday and Sunday afternoons at Schoonover's Wainwright Field. The team has always welcomed interested players to come to practices and join in the fun, no experience needed.

According to Tracy Huckaby, junior back and team co-captain, the biggest challenge is "just teaching everyone the game."

Melissa Fehn, co-captain and junior forward, agreed and added that everyone is still getting used to playing together. Assisting in those areas will be Pablo Svenningsen and Ramsey Borthwick of the Monterey men's rugby team, who have volunteered

their time to coach the Otters this season.

Each rugby game consists of two 40-minute halves. A try, worth five points, is similar to a touchdown in football. It involves touching the ball with pressure and under control in the opposition goal area. A kick is similar to a field goal in football and is worth two points each. One kick is given after each try.

Their first game on Feb. 19 at St. Marys (2-0) ended with a defeat for CSUMB by a score of 29-7. Fehn, who just started playing rugby last year, scored the try and Huckaby made the extra kick. After a tough loss full of mud and rain, the co-captains said they were proud of how the team played.

Their second game on Feb. 26 vs. Santa Clara (0-3) ended in a loss.

"The girls endured a tough loss, but had a lot of fun out there," said Huckaby.

"Although we may lose games, we're a winning team," added team member Rachel Osias after the game, who, like other players on the team, has embraced the concept of playing with pride no matter what the outcome.



Otter rugby women try to get a hold on Santa Clara during a scrum. PHOTO BY CHAD GHIRON

After their home game on March 5, Otter rugby will have two more until the completion of their season. On March 12, they

will play at Sacramento State (0-2) and on March 19 they will have their last home game vs. San Jose State (1-1).

## Students to vote on sports referendum

By Luis Vicuna, Staff Reporter  
LUIS\_VICUNA@CSUMB.EDU

New softball and baseball teams and a student fee: the first two have already been decided upon but CSUMB students will have the final say on the last item when they vote on a proposed \$25 per semester athletic fee on March 9-10 during the Associated Students (AS) elections.

If passed, the fee will be divided among more than only varsity sports. While the majority of the money would go straight to intercollegiate athletics, 10 percent will be relegated for the Otter Sports Center, as well as intramural and recreational sports. Another six percent will go directly to club sports, and four percent will go to

Adventure Connections.

The fee is a reaction to the continuous expansion of CSUMB's athletic department. Last fall, the expansion included provisional acceptance into the NCAA Div. II for intercollegiate athletics. By next spring the expansion will see the addition of baseball and softball to the Otter sports family.

According to Jared Jungwirth, senior forward on the men's basketball team and member of the Student Athletic Advisory Council, the purpose of the fee is to "maintain and enhance the programs that influence a great number of students on the campus besides athletes."

Jungwirth also pointed to the importance of the money meant specifically for the athletes, citing athletes who received scholar-

ships and "can now go to school and get an education who normally couldn't."

Opponents of the fee like AS President Yuri Beckelmen, who is opposed to any fee increases, cite already rising fees, and refuse to pay any more. While those in favor claim the addition of this money to the Athletic department will help the Campus Community as a whole.

"It hurts us when we go to the Governor and ask him not to raise fees, then we raise fee's at home," said Beckelmen.

The athletic department and AS have been working together in order to put out the education materials. AS has not voted on a resolution in support or against the student fee.

"We decided to go ahead and

help the Athletic Department put together the referendum and take it to the referendum office," said AS Vice President Ren Herring, who is undecided on the Athletic fee increase.

"It doesn't seem fiscally responsible to ask students to make the sacrifice in the name of an athletic program that does get a lot of money." Stated Senator at Large Ashley Simmons

According to Athletic Director Bill Trumbo, the Athletic Department wasn't seeking the approval of AS but ultimately wanted the athletics fee to go to a campus-wide vote. Trumbo admitted that AS support was not expected or depended on for this process to take place.

"I just want the vote to be out and let the majority rule," said Trumbo.

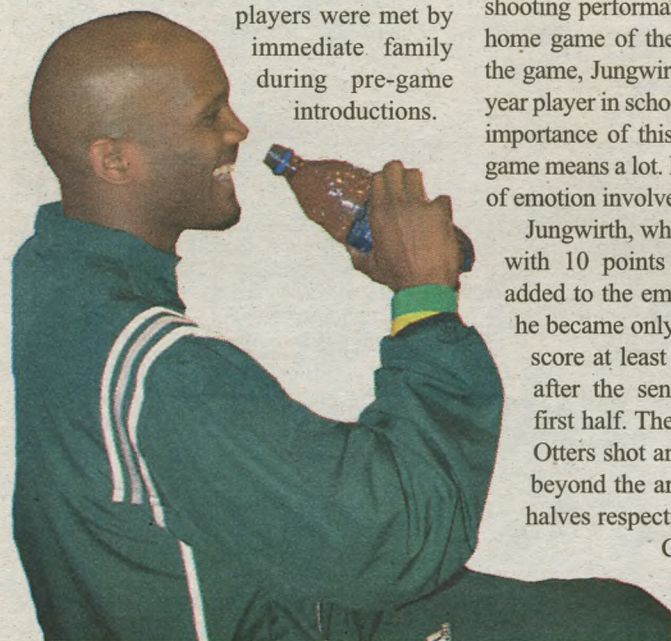


# Seniors take final victory lap at the Kelp bed

By Mike Lewis, Staff Reporter  
MICHAEL\_LEWIS@CSUMB.EDU

Last gatherings always have a tendency to be tearful, yet the way the Otter men's basketball team played and conducted themselves on Senior Night was nothing to cry over.

Seven seniors: guards Ryan Bisio, Will Brown, Demar Walton, Jon Lapachet, forward Azzan Walker, forward/centers Carlos Arroyo and Jared Jungwirth played their last home games in Otter uniforms on a Saturday night tailored to recognize the efforts of these student athletes. Walking through a veil of players, cheerleaders and dance team members to acknowledge their contributions, the players were met by immediate family during pre-game introductions.



Showing that his talents extend beyond the court, Bisio got things started with a guitar solo of the National Anthem, which brought the vocal crowd of 650 attendants to their feet. The Otter men (12-13, 9-9 CCAA) went on to a 72-58 decision over the last place Golden Eagles of Cal State Los Angeles (1-24, 0-18).

"They [Los Angeles] took us to overtime in our last meeting. If there's a team they think they can beat, it's us," said Jungwirth, referring to a 67-62 OT win over the Golden Eagles in January.

Last Saturday the Otters handled the Golden Eagles with a stellar shooting performance for their last home game of the season. Before the game, Jungwirth, the first four-year player in school history, spoke of the importance of this final send-off. "This game means a lot. It's going to have a lot of emotion involved with it."

Jungwirth, who finished the game with 10 points and seven boards, added to the emotion of the night as he became only the third Otter ever to score at least 800 points in his career, after the senior hit a jumper in the first half. The elation continued as the Otters shot an even 50 and 60 percent beyond the arc in the first and second halves respectively.

CSUMB kept a consistent lead throughout the game with much help



from Walton, who put up 23 points, handed out five assists and grabbed five rebounds.

Walton was the workhorse in a game that displayed gritty defense on both ends, but it was the smoothness of his touch that got the job done that night as he went five-of-seven from 3-point land and nailed all six of his free throw attempts.

After the game Arroyo simply stated the feelings of all the seniors. "It felt great," he said.

This weekend the team heads back to Southern California to finish their season. In their final game on March 5, the Otters seek retribution for a 74-83 loss to Cal State Dominguez Hills (7-16, 6-10). The night before, on March 5, CSUMB will face Cal Poly Pomona (18-5, 13-3), in an attempt to repeat the magic from a previous 54-53 win in January. The Otters

challenge a strong Broncos team, currently in second place in the CCAA, and looking for payback in Pomona.



PHOTOS BY CHAD GHIRON

Azzan Walker looks for a path through the hands. Demar Walton (center) surveys the floor while Will Brown (left) is all smiles before a game.

## Small waves, environvent keep tow-in surfers out

By Madeline Aseityne, Staff Reporter  
MADELINE\_ASEITYNE@CSUMB.EDU

When describing the perfect day for surfing it might sound something like this:

"The wave has to be a right hand point, in warm water, in the morning, with glassy conditions, and a five to seven foot wave with a perfect barrel," said Philip Watkins, an avid surfer and junior at CSUMB.

But Watkins is describing the perfect day for only one type of surfing: traditional paddle-in surfing that only requires a board, a wet suit and a surfer.

There is a newer way to ride waves: tow-in surfing. It involves a motorized personal water craft (MPWC), more commonly known as a jet ski, a towline, and special

surfboard. There are also differences in the waves that tow-in surfers need verses paddle-in surfers. For a paddle-in surfer, the waves would be moderately sized, but not too big or fast. For tow-in surfers, the bigger and faster the waves the better. Since MPWC's can pull them as fast as the wave, the surfer can drop in and catch it.

"Tow in surfing is used for gigantic waves, 40ft, 50ft or 100ft waves, that I couldn't ride right now," said sophomore and rookie surfer Elise Teller.

Tow-in surfing is a recent development in the surfing community and there is still controversy over the legitimacy of the sport and where it can be preformed. Locations for tow-in surfing is an especially hot



PHOTO BY MADELINE ASEITYNE

Wave size is the biggest factor for local surfers who don't need tows from jet skis unless they're looking for big air.

SURFING continued on page 8



## Surfing

...from page 7

topic here in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS), which extends along 276 miles of the California coast.

There are many paddle-in surfers in the area, and tow-in surfing is beginning to take hold at the popular big wave site Mavericks near Half Moon Bay. Conflict arises over whether tow-in surfing should be allowed in the MBNMS, and under what conditions it should be allowed. In the MBNMS there is strict regulation of the use of MPWCs, which are cited as being disruptive to the environment and wildlife.

"Assessments of MPWC impacts indicate that unrestricted access to all reaches of the MBNMS by

such craft would pose an unacceptable threat to wildlife and other ocean users," according to the MBNMS Web site.

Currently MPWCs are only allowed in four specific areas of the MBNMS. Monterey, Santa Cruz, and Moss Landing each have designated areas, as well as Pillar Point in Half Moon Bay. But the current definition of an MPWC allows some crafts to slip under the restriction and be used for tow-in surfing.

Current definitions of an MPWC qualify it as "any motorized vessel that is less than 15 feet in length as manufactured, is capable of exceeding a speed of 15 knots (17.27 miles per hour), and has the capacity to carry not more than the operator and one other person while in operation." This leaves out new models that can carry more passengers and tow surfers.

The legality of the sport has only become an issue in recent years with the rise in popularity of tow-in surfing. Environmentalists are worried about the affects of newer MPWC's on the protected habitats and wildlife. Paddle-in surfers also have concerns including the purity of surfing, the way that the MPWCs affects the waves with their wake, and trying to share the waves with tow-in surfers.

"Tow-in surfing is only meant for big waves. If you can paddle in to a wave you shouldn't tow-in, it ruins the purity of surfing," said Watkins.

Tow-in surfing is mostly used to help surfers catch waves that were previously thought to be uncatchable due to their speed, height or distance from the shore. With an MPWC pulling a surfer, they can get to remote areas or far off breaks, and match a wave's speed so the surfer can catch it.

## Solo senior closes out career with Otters

By Mike Lewis, Staff Reporter  
MICHAEL\_LEWIS@CSUMB.EDU

On what was supposed to be a glorious night (Senior Night), the CSUMB women's basketball team (3-22, 0-18 CCAA) failed to give the fans, or themselves, what they wanted at Saturday's 63-69 loss to the Golden Eagles of Cal State Los Angeles.

"I go to every game to support the Otters." Water girl and eighth grader Melissa Kruse said about her fidelity to the team. "Even if they lose, they play great basketball."

Losing has been the common denomina-

tor for the women's basketball team through 25 games in which they have managed to conjure up three wins and still remain winless in conference play. The last home game of the sea-

son featured no three pointers despite 15 attempts and no blocked shots in 40 minutes of play. The thorn in the Otter's side was speedy 5'4" sophomore guard Jaemy Oda of CSU Los Angeles.



Senior center Veronica Newsome



Point guard Andrea Hanshew (left) keeps her head up as she slows down to enter the offense.

PHOTOS BY CHAD GHIRON

## Sailing makes history

Feb. 27 at the California Maritime Academy Regatta, CSUMB had both a varsity and JV boat take line honors for the first time since the sailing team became a varsity sport in the spring of 2003. The JV boat of skipper Bill Hatch and crew Greg Cannon took advantage of a strong wind to become the first Otter sailors to cross the line first in a regatta. Later in the day skipper Megan Comstock and crew Haley Pikhart took line honors with the Varsity B boat, a first for varsity sailing at CSUMB.

## Half Marathon training

This Saturday, March 5 at 7:30 a.m. the local running community will meet at the parking lot of the CSUMB Aquatic Center to take a practice run of the actual course for the CSUMB Half Marathon/10K on March 26, 7:30 a.m. Water stations will be provided as CSUMB cross country coach Yi Mao guides runners through the course.

## Golf: sixth at tourney

Last weekend men's golf was two over par and shot 291-285-290 to finish sixth at the Family Motors Invitational hosted by Cal State Bakersfield.

-Darrell Hirashima

## Uncommon

...from page 6

athletic programs and turn them on their head. In 1971, the year before Title IX was passed, only 18 percent of women were college graduates compared to 26 percent of men. With just under 60 percent of students enrolled here at CSUMB being women, this rinky-dink little school, with its sanded-down look and feel, is a progressive sign of the times.

Six of CSUMB's 10 intercollegiate teams are women's teams. The women on those teams represent over 30 years of proving women can compete equally in the same arenas as men. The addition of softball next year will make it seven teams of women proving college students would support their teams, even if they were women's teams.

For students, and representatives of Associated Students, who take the time to vote next week, the easy thing to do would be to turn their back on these women. It would be almost as easy to stand with them.

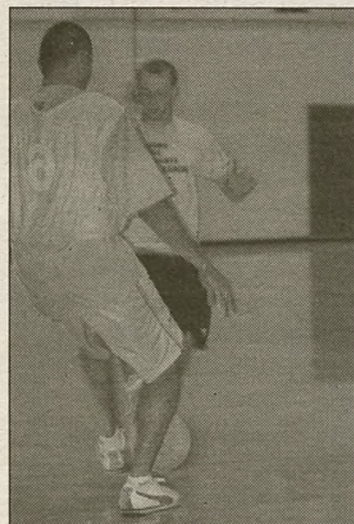


# IM sports stay active

By Josh Warren, Staff Reporter  
FREDERICK\_WARREN@CSUMB.EDU

For students of CSUMB, it is time to stop IMing (instant messaging) people and start IMing (intramural) against people.

Intramural soccer, basket-



PHOTOS BY CHAD GHIRON

Two students take advantage of activities.

ball and flag football begin this March. To participate in these activities, students must sign up with the intramural office in the Otter Sports Center

Intramural activities are available to any student, faculty or staff member at CSUMB free of charge and is easy to join. Soccer, basketball and flag football are considered league play activities which require a sign-up.

Other sports like dodgeball and indoor soccer are open activities. These are intramural activities that anyone can join without signing up; all it takes to participate is arriving on time ready to play.

According to Tracy Huckaby, intramural assistant and co-captain of the rugby club team, IM is currently offering dodgeball on Monday nights and indoor soccer on Wednesday nights, both from 7-9 p.m. at the Otter Sports Center (OSC).

Current IM participants and

CSUMB students Nick Lackey and Megan Minnick admitted that ironically, sitting in front of the computer screen is a good place to learn about more sweat-filled activities.

"I heard about intramurals on a e-mail list you get on when you play intramurals," said Lackey. Minnick added, "You can also find out about intramurals on Open Forum on FirstClass."

Most intramural activities are held at the OSC. Some, such as outdoor soccer and flag football, are held at outdoor fields around the campus. Check with the intramural office for details on those locations.

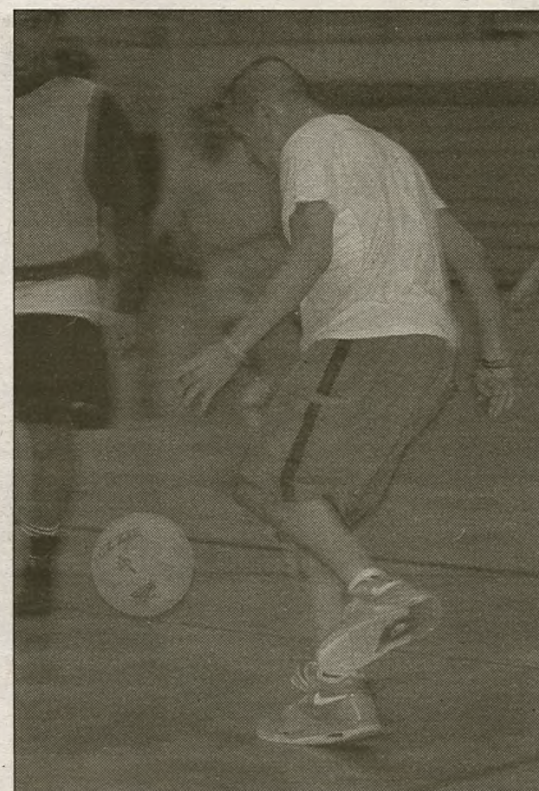
According to Huckaby, participants want to sign up before league play starts. There are no deadlines set in stone, but it is suggested by the intramural program that interested students sign up before league play activities start to guarantee participation.

A tentative schedule for league play activities can be found on the CSUMB sports Web site under

the intramurals tab, or by going directly to [www.sports.csUMB.edu/intramurals](http://www.sports.csUMB.edu/intramurals). Registration and waiver forms, as well as other important information can be found there.

Other upcoming IM events to get involved in are the Monterey Bay Half Marathon on March 27 and the three-on-three Basketball Tournament planned for April 17-18.

The Half Marathon is sponsored and hosted by the CSUMB athletic department. This event is free to students, staff and faculty who register with an intramural Half Marathon registration form and an Otter ID at the check-in.



A student plays indoor soccer, part of CSUMB's Intramural Sports.

## Senior Night

...continued from page 7

Oda was arguably the best player on the floor, recording 26 points, six rebounds, five assists, and hitting 12 of 14 free throws.

There is perhaps some light at the end of a dismal tunnel. The Otters led for a good portion of the game and missed only seven free throws. In the second half of the contest, they didn't miss any. With all but one player returning next season, the Otters believe they have a lot of talent to build around.

The lone star senior, 6'1" center Veronica Newsome, played very close to her averages. Recording four points and five defensive rebounds, her stingy defense also garnered two steals for the senior. The second year player is averaging 5.2 points and 4.1 rebounds a game. Newsome recorded a career-high 13 points this season against Minnesota State-Mankato on Dec. 30. She repeated the feat against Sonoma

State on Jan. 8 and Cal Poly Pomona on Jan. 29.

Senior Night, which took place right before the start of the men's game, honored Newsome as the team's only senior.

"It just felt like a regular game," Newsome said about her last game ever as an Otter.

The regular game ended up as a delightful evening. Newsome was embraced by her mother and friends before walking through a tunnel of players, cheerleaders and dance team members, and given a bouquet of roses as she shared her final moments on her home court.

The road ahead for the Otters only becomes more challenging as they look to their final games of the season against conference powerhouses Cal Poly Pomona (18-6, 13-4) and Cal State Dominguez Hills (16-6, 14-2). They will meet the 2001-02 back-to-back national champion Broncos of Cal Poly Pomona on March 4. They will also face the CCAA first place Toros of Cal State Dominguez Hills on March 5.

## C.A.M.P.~C.O.U.G.H. CLUB

Would like to thank CSU Monterey Bay  
for implementing the 25-Foot Smoking Policy!

You are invited to Mountain Mikes Pizza in Marina  
from 5-7 pm on Tuesday, March 15!  
Come join our meeting and talk about tobacco  
advertising and sponsorship.

There will be FREE PIZZA!  
Come Join the Fun!!

Interested in CAMP?

Contact Julie Dustin at 373-7306x18 or [jdustin@alac coast.org](mailto:jdustin@alac coast.org)

Smoke Free

# COUGH

CAMPUS ORGANIZED & UNITED FOR GOOD HEALTH

How long can you hold your breath?

This project is funded by the California Department of Health Services,  
Tobacco Control Section under contract #00-90378.



# Silent surrealism

by Justin Kisner, Staff Reporter

JUSTIN\_KISNER@CSUMB.EDU

In collaboration with the San Francisco Silent Film Festival, Hot Club of San Francisco brings "Silent Surrealism" to CSUMB's World Theatre on March 4.

The show will consist of four short American surrealist films including Charlie Bowers' "It's a Bird" and "Now You Tell One," James Sibley Watson's "The Fall of the House of Usher" and Harold Shaw's "The Land Beyond the Sunset."

According to Stephen Salmons, co-founder of the San Francisco Silent Film Festival, Charlie Bowers is a virtually unknown filmmaker who is just now being rediscovered. "I think people are going to be stunned when they see his stuff," he said.

Bowers began his filmmaking career as a cartoonist making animated films but later became the lead role in his own series of comedic live action films.

"He took the imagination that he'd shown in his animated cartoons and brought it full blown to life in live action films," said Salmons. Salmons described Shaw's "The Land Beyond the Sunset" as being "considered one of the most beautiful early films" and Watson's "The Fall of the House of Usher" as being loosely based on the Edgar Allan Poe story.

All four films will be accompanied by the live musical performance of the Hot Club of San Francisco. They play a type of music known as gypsy jazz, which is characterized by an all-string instrumentation. Hearing the ensemble is said to take listeners back to the small, smoky jazz clubs of Paris and the refined lounges of the famous Hotel Ritz in the 1930s.

Although Hot Club of San Francisco has performed for silent films in the past, this is their first time collaborating with the San Francisco Silent Film Festival. Salmons gives his old

high school friend and lead guitarist of Hot Club, Paul Mehling, credit for the idea of the collaboration and says the festival's relation to "Silent Surrealism" is "in an advisory capacity."

"I was surprised that he came to me first and said he wanted to put something together," said Salmons, adding that he'd given suggestions and guidance on films but that the decisions were ultimately Mehling's.

"He's put together a really interesting package here," said Salmons, "I've been pretty confident all along that he could do something like this."

Salmons describes the program as a combination of surrealism, comedy and drama, noting that he looks forward to working with Hot Club of San Francisco in the future.

According to Mehling, gypsy jazz was invented and grandfa-

thered by 1920s guitarist Django Reinhardt. He describes Django's innovative style as a combination of American jazz, classical, gypsy and the dance music from the turn of the century.

"He combined those four things into a style of music, which was pretty much him as a Gypsy trying to copy American jazz guys but came out influenced by all those other types of music," said Mehling.



Hot Club of San Francisco accompany films with gypsy jazz.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY HOT CLUB OF SAN FRANCISCO

## Faculty:visiting artists

by Erin Nokes, Staff Report

ERIN\_NOKES@CSUMB.EDU

This year, due to recent budget cuts, the Visual and Public Arts department professors at CSUMB will get a chance to strut their stuff in front of students and discuss with them how their work inspires social change.

As Joanna Poething, one of the VPA department's founding faculty members explained, the professors have decided to make the best of the budget cuts, putting their talents together and are hoping to show students that "the artist is part of society."

The series was changed for two reasons, the first being the budget cuts and secondly to show the university's open environment has room for opinion.

"The crime is that [with] more and more budget cuts, it's the kids that suffer [when] the arts get cut; kids who haven't had art feel alienated," said Poething. The professors are hoping to inspire interested students to get out into the world and create change.

Amalia Mesa-Bains, director of VPA at CSUMB, simply added, "we're run-

ning out of money."

As it is, the VPA department already holds fundraisers in order to earn money to pay for visiting artists to come to CSUMB, and so the VPA department decided to extend an invitation to their faculty.

Mesa-Bains said the professors "all go to other [college campuses] and give talks," proving that they are just as qualified as other guest speakers CSUMB has hosted.

It is often very rare that students get a glimpse of what their professors accomplish. Anika Hein, sophomore SBS major, said, "it will be interesting to see what the professors do."

Mesa-Bains explains that the campus as well as the faculty "seem to be trying to create an environment of exchange."

This year's VPA Visiting Artists series is going to be set up as a "Salon Series," where students and faculty can have a discussion about the art being presented. The faculty will unveil their work to the awaiting public from Feb. 24 to May 5 at 6 p.m. in the warming environment of

the University Living Room in the University Center.

The topic of this year's series "Art as Social Change" is a heavy subject for many people to discuss. Poething said, "I'm happy [to be doing this], maybe if someone doesn't like what I do, but lets me know, lets me talk about it. [I'll be] interested to hear what [they would have to] say."

Mesa-Bains feels that there is a "responsibility to create a campus where people are talking and conversing [about] topics that are not always talked about" by the faculty and the students. Mesa-Bains will be presenting with Professor Gilbert Neri on the subjects of family, memory and history. They will explain how "artists are like historians."

Poething explains that she will be unveiling her pieces on Feb. 24, along with Professor Siobhan Arnold. The two faculty members will be showing pieces that relate to feminism.

"I do a lot of public artwork [and I want to] show [it] from the point of view of a woman artist relating to issues [of] co-modification, sexism, intellectualism etc," Poething said.



An installment of the Visiting Artist's Series

PHOTO BY CHAD GHIRON



## Adam's Picks

By Adam Joseph, A&E Editor  
ADAM\_JOSEPH@CSUMB.EDU

### An Original Assault

"Assault on Precinct 13" mixes the slapstick, gratuitous killing of "Night of the Living Dead" with the socially savvy blaxploitation films of the 1970s. John Carpenter, the director, creates a world so outrageously grim we start to believe it as our own truth.

The film's beginning sequences ingrain the solitude of an urban setting using shots of empty streets, blowing debris, and boarded up buildings. Anderson, a rotten Los



Angeles neighborhood, is the setting where a soon-to-be abandoned police station is finishing out its last night. The Precinct 9, Division 13 police station is relocating, and on its last functioning night, war is waged upon the last remaining personnel: a black rookie cop, two female secretaries, and three prison inmates

transferring to death row.

We are first made aware of the evilness of a demented gang in a scene in which three of the members sit around in dead silence, passing around a large serrated knife; each one cuts into their own hand and squeezes blood into a bowl as a ritualistic symbol reinforcing that they are all of one belief: kill or die trying to kill.

Carpenter establishes the malevolence of these men further, with what has become known as the infamous, "ice cream scene." A little girl and her father stop at a phone booth to get directions; the girl walks up to an ice cream truck parked about 15 feet away. The girl and the ice cream man are shot dead in the middle of a street in broad daylight by one of these men. The act itself – watching a small child being shot in the heart at close range – isn't what disturbs the viewer the most.

It is the matter-of-fact, panache manner in which the gunmen carries out this vicious execution. Avenging his daughter's death, the father manages to shoot the man who killed his daughter and escapes the retaliation running the closing precinct.

What looks like thousands of sadistically entranced men, all armed with automatic weapons, completely envelop the station. The frightening thing about this attack isn't the AK-47s or the endless amounts of ammunition; it is that all the men attacking do not fear death. This is an all-too-familiar reality in 2005, with our terrorists and suicide bombers.

This begins the 40-minute stand-off between seven people inside the station with only two guns and a handful of bullets versus hundreds of inhuman killers surrounding the station. Using night time to their

advantage, the guerillas easily blend into the darkness, firing shot after shot without a breath or concern for human welfare. Carpenter orchestrates this scene using the perspective from inside the police station. We cannot see where these silenced gun shots are coming from; we only see the windows shatter, files explode, aluminum blinds bend, and holes rhythmically commence in tight formation along every inch of the surrounding walls.

At this point, the viewer watching the film may be compelled to take cover closely to the living room floor. We're left feeling paranoid and distorted in a world away from the world as we know it: a world with law, order, and human conscience. But we sigh in relief as the gang members are killed as effortlessly as the zombies in "Night of the Living Dead."

## Hey Otters!

Over the next few issues of the The Otter Realm, we will be changing the look and feel of our publication.

We ask that you give us any suggestions and feedback regarding our new and old details both in content and design. Please e-mail us with any comments at [or@csumb.edu](mailto:or@csumb.edu).

-The Otter Realm Staff

# FUTURE...



The path you choose today  
can lead to tomorrow's success.

State Compensation Insurance Fund

If you're ready to apply your knowledge and skills in the post-graduation job market, then toss your hat in with State Fund.

State Fund, the leading workers' compensation insurance carrier in California, is interested in graduates seeking opportunity and stability. We offer a wide range of positions throughout California, plus an environment that will foster your continued growth.

At State Fund you'll find exceptional benefits, professional training to expand your horizons, and many advancement possibilities.

Learn how you can join us by visiting [www.scif.com](http://www.scif.com) or by contacting Human Resources at 415-565-1722. Then launch your career with State Fund and rise to new heights.

State Fund is an equal opportunity employer.

**Career opportunities may be available in:**

- Marketing
- Communications
- Underwriting
- Claims
- Loss Control
- Business Services
- Customer Service
- Legal
- Information Technology
- Finance and Accounting
- Human Resources
- Administration

STATE  
COMPENSATION  
INSURANCE  
FUND



## The Low Down

To post an event, contact  
Adam Joseph via FirstClass

### Thursday, March 3

"Ferris Bueller's Day Off" and 80s Dress Up Night. Thursday Night Movie presented by OSHA. World Theater. 10 p.m. Free. Alcohol Free. Contact OSHA via First Class.

### Friday, March 4

"Silent Surrealism." Presented by The Hot Club of San Francisco brings live gypsy jazz accompanied by silent surrealist films. World Theater. 7:30 p.m. Tickets at World Theater Box Office. \$25 public; \$22 groups; \$7 students. Contact the World Theater at 582-4580.

### Tuesday, March 8

International Womyn's Day celebration. Presented by Empower, Events Workgroup, ICC, HCOM and MCFG. UC Ballroom. 6-9 p.m. Free. Contact 582-3329 for more information.

### Wednesday, March 9

Order of the Fly (Horror Punk, San Bernardino) Adenosine Tri-Phosphate (Gothic Rock, Japan) Secret Secret (Dark Synthpop, San Francisco) Presented by Events Workgroup. BBC. 8 p.m. Free. Contact Vito Triglia via FirstClass.

### Sunday, March 13

Guitar Wolf (Tokyo, Japan) with Last Night (CSUMB). Presented by Events Workgroup. BBC. 8 p.m. Free. Contact Vito Triglia via FirstClass.

### Tuesday, March 15-16

9th Annual Social Justice Colloquium. "Multicultural Citizens in an era of US Dominance." Activists from various areas of social justice speak about global issues in a time of conflict. Presented by Globalize This!, SBS, GS, and the Road Runner Club. UC Ballroom. 6-9 p.m.

# Site gives students a chance for feedback

By M Cristina Medina, Staff Reporter  
MARTHA\_MEDINA@CSUMB.EDU

Evaluating a professor at the end of the semester is not enough; sometimes a student needs to share their personal opinions to the world.

"Anytime you only get voluntary responses, you get skeptical on the bias," said Head of the Math Department Don Pierce.

In the long run, Pierce could not help but be curious.

"I just looked at the site and there were 12 evaluations of me. Last semester alone I taught over 300 students, so 12 is a very small percentage. The majority of these were required classes, and gener-

ally taken by folks who don't like math and are often under prepared," said Pierce through a panicked e-mail regarding ratemyprofessor.com two hours after the initial interview.

*"I get comments not only on my teaching style, but also toward my character."*

-NATALIE ZAYAS

Ever since 1999, ratemyprofessor.com has been a Web site where students can anonymously

and voluntarily rate professors from over 1700 schools throughout the nation, including Canada. The ratings are only limited to the professors teaching. The Web site reviews the comments daily and removes any ratings that seem "too personal."

"We place a lot of emphasis on student evaluations here," said Pierce when it comes to students evaluating faculty on their teaching performance through the student evaluation forms provided by the school.

Since the late 1970s Pierce has been teaching math. "In math it's pretty clear what needs to be covered," said Pierce of his job being to help master math, not to rate

high on a Web site.

Pierce has viewed the Web site ratemyprofessor.com yet feels that it does not give any valuable information. Instead he compares each section of each course he has taught to make sure teachings and requirements are fulfilled. He also confirmed that the rehiring of staff is affected heavily by the evaluations of the students, as well as how well the students did in the class.

However, there are some people who think the Web site is not a waste of time, such as, Natalie Zayas, ESSP lecturer. Zayas has viewed the Web site before and thinks the site is interesting since it contains very informative feedback from students, but feels skeptical about who is actually rating the professors.

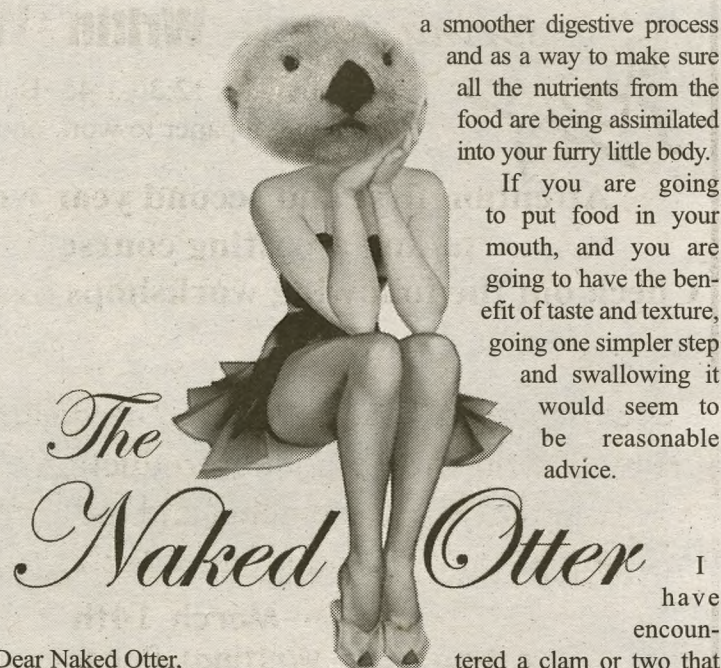
"It's a good site; I think its fun, but anyone can go in there. It looks like there needs to be no school affiliation to do the ratings," said Zayas.

Zayas also agreed that student evaluations are more effective, because they show everybody from every semester, and most students try not to miss the day of evaluation.

"I get comments not only on my teaching style, but also toward my character," said Zayas.

Danny Ceja, a 22 year old business major, likes the idea of the Web site. "It's a good thing for students and professors as well; they should try to make it a bigger thing where professors make the students rate them," said Ceja.

Ceja also thinks the Web site could be negative, since some students could have personal issues against a professor and rate them unfairly low.



Dear Naked Otter,  
Spit or Swallow?

Signed,  
Curious Otter

Dear Curious Otter,

Let me first say that your question, although a nice example of alliteration, is not only vague but obvious and easy to answer. Swallow, of course!

In fact, I recommend biting, chewing and then swallowing for

a smoother digestive process and as a way to make sure all the nutrients from the food are being assimilated into your furry little body.

If you are going to put food in your mouth, and you are going to have the benefit of taste and texture, going one simpler step and swallowing it would seem to be reasonable advice.

I have encountered a clam or two that tasted a bit rank or past

its prime, therefore I could see why one would hesitate at swallowing then. This is why I always recommend never eating a shell fish that offends ones adorable button nose with a fishy odor. Good, clean clam shouldn't smell like anything and if it does, an otter must resist the urge to go down that road, no matter how hungry or desperate for that soft, fleshy tissue.

Whether it is a clam, muscle or sweet, engorged sea sponge an otter is diving for, one must remember that sea life is among

**Good, clean clam shouldn't smell like anything and if it does, an otter must resist the urge to go down that road, no matter how hungry or desperate for that soft, fleshy tissue.**

the most parasitic of all the Earths delicious treats. Many a reckless otter who did not head the signs of a tainted sea sponge or muscle has been recovered by the men in the sea suits that patrol the bay and had to go through the humiliation of having their fur swabbed, their temperatures checked with anal thermometers and ears tagged.

With that said, eat to your hearts content, Curious Otter, and swallow with caution.

Be Serene,  
The Naked Otter



## MiniScopes II

By Mystic Porpoise

### Aries

March 21 - April 19

Looking for love in all the wrong places? Keep it up - you might get lucky.

### Taurus

April 20 - May 20

Don't even go outside today, Taurus.

### Gemini

May 21 - June 21

Ignore the angel on your shoulder this month. He's being bribed by the devil on the other.

### Cancer

June 22 - July 22

At the end of this year you will surely be older if not wiser.

### Leo

July 23 - Aug. 22

This month your wildest dreams will come true. Be sure not to dream too wild.

### Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Nothing's going your way; be at peace with it.

### Libra

Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

Apologize to that person you've wronged and forgive the person who wronged you.

### Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Stop scheming, Scorpio. All your plans are about to backfire.

### Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Jupiter is aligning with Venus this month so eat some melba toast at your earliest convenience.

### Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

Go clean your room. I mean, come on.

### Aquarius

Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

Try and get Taurus to go outside.

### Pisces

February 19 - March 20

Stay away from water this month, Pisces.

## Surrealism

...from page 10

Mehling recalled growing up listening to the jazz styles of Luis Armstrong, Duke Ellington and Django Reinhardt. "And for me the little light bulb went off in my head as a really young kid," he said.

As he got more and more into jazz, Mehling decided to become a specialist and only play gypsy jazz. In 1991 he formed the Hot Club of San Francisco and used the same instrumentation as the original Hot Club de France: three guitars, a violin and a string bass.

"We copied the instrumentation of the Hot Club de France, that's where we get our name and that's where we get our inspiration," said Mehling.

Hot Club of San Francisco plays a combination of Django Reinhardt's compositions as well

as their original compositions.

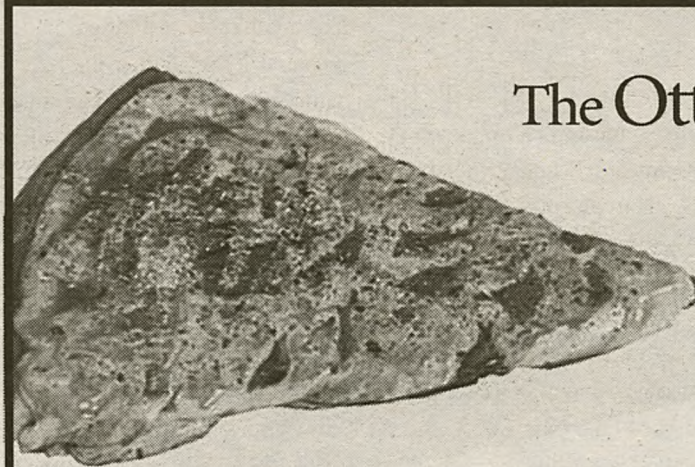
"We're trying to keep the music and the memory of Django alive by playing his tunes but we also like to pretend what it would be like if he were still alive, what sort of tunes he would be recording or what his music would sound like now," said Mehling.

The musical program for "Silent Surrealism" hasn't been set in stone. Mehling says they plan on improvising based on some of the music they normally play.

"We haven't really scored out the music to the films," he said, "It's going to be largely an improvised performance, which is part of the fun of it."

"Silent Surrealism" is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. on March 4. Ticket prices for the event are \$7 for CSUMB students with identification, \$25 for the general public and \$22 for groups of 20 and more.

not to be cheezy, but...

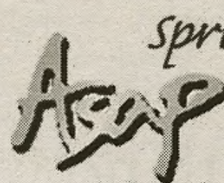


The Otter Realm

thanks

DC PIZZA

good food makes good design!



spring 2005

Writing Workshop Series

Mondays 12:30-1:45- Building 18/131

\*\*\*Bring a paper to work on in the workshop!

Attention first and second year writers,  
taking a writing course?

Check out the following workshops available for you:

--March 7th

**Starting the Paper: Writing Introductions That Rock!**

How do you write a good introduction? This workshop will cover some of the elements and tools needed to write a complete and appealing introduction.

--March 14th

**Citing Your Writing: Paraphrasing and Quoting in your Paper**

How do I use quotes in my paper? How do I know which quotes to include? When do I use quotes? How can I summarize another author's work without plagiarizing? Do these questions sound familiar? Come and find out strategies for incorporating research into your writing. Workshop will cover paraphrasing and embedding quotes in a paper.

Contact Information:

Natasha Oehlman, Writing Coordinator, 582-4614



# Opinion

## Hybrid vehicles prove trustworthy

By Ben Demarest, Staff Reporter  
BENJAMIN\_DEMARASTE@CSUMB.EDU

If you drive 12,000 miles in a car getting 22 miles per gallon, drivers are spending approximately \$10,900 a year on gas. Driving the same distance in a hybrid vehicle will save at least \$3,620.

Now add a \$2,000, one time tax deduction for taxpayers who purchase a hybrid vehicle. And at the end of the first year,

**If hybrids were driven by just 25 percent of licensed drivers, drivers would save just under 1 trillion gallons of gas every year.**

with a hybrid vehicle, a total of 181 gallons of gasoline will have been saved.

Consider the 220 million licensed driv-

ers in the United States. If hybrids were driven by just 25 percent of licensed drivers, drivers would save just under 1 trillion gallons of gas every year. With statistics like this, it is difficult to understand why hybrids are not a first choice when purchasing a new vehicle.

Some say the options are too limited or that it does not fit their life style. Yet, almost every major automaker has, or is planning to, release hybrid vehicles of all types.

Toyota has sold the top-selling hybrid for the past few years, the Prius, and is now beginning to sell the Highlander SUV with a hybrid option. Honda is currently selling three hybrid models, the Insight, Civic, and Accord. Lexus is releasing a luxury SUV hybrid in early 2005.

Even GMC has released their best-selling pickup truck, the Sierra 1500, in a hybrid model. Mitsubishi, Mazda, Mercedes Benz, Daimler-Chrysler and Acura all have plans to release hybrids within the next few years.

Others say hybrids are under powered and lack performance. The GMC Sierra

1500 still has a Vortec 5300 V8, but the electric motor allows the full-size pick up to run 10 percent more fuel efficiency.

The Toyota Highland has 270 horses when the 3.3-liter V6 and electric motor run simultaneously. It is capable of 0-60

**Honda Civic hybrid cost just \$2,000 more than the gas only DX Special Edition. This extra \$1,000-\$2,000 is worth it when drivers consider the thousands of dollars they can save on gas every year.**

in less than eight seconds, performing better than most non-hybrid SUVs. And the Honda Accord Hybrid has 240 horses when the V6 engine and electric motor combine.

Cost is another issue that may pre-

hy-brid - n.

1. Genetics. The offspring of genetically dissimilar parents or stock, especially the offspring produced by breeding plants or animals of different varieties, species, or races.

2. a. Something of mixed origin or composition.

b. Something, such as a computer or power plant, having two kinds of components that produce the same or similar results.

- According to Dictionary.com

vent some from purchasing a hybrid. Most hybrids do not cost much more than the basic model.

The Ford Escape Hybrid cost just \$1,000 more than the gasoline only model. The Honda Civic hybrid cost just \$2,000 more than the gas only DX Special Edition. This extra \$1,000-\$2,000 is worth it when drivers consider the thousands of dollars they can save on gas every year.

The next time potential buyers are considering a new vehicle consider a hybrid first. It's good for the environment and the pocket book.

## Letter to the Editor: Hell hath no fury like a vagina scorned

Dear Editor,

We, the authors of this letter were participants in the 2005 production of the Vagina Monologues. The Vagina Monologues is a unique production that is part of a larger feminist movement. The Otter Realm is a direct influential source for CSUMB and our community.

For this reason, the Womyn of the Vagina Monologues have exchanged ideas and addressed concerns regarding the February 17, 2005 issue, specifically the article on this years presentation of the Vagina Monologues.

We were concerned about the display of the Vagina Monologues. This production is a three-month project that took the time and dedication of 44 womyn invested in creating a unique presentation of womyns stories around the world. Forty-four womyn is a record number. These womyn told stories of sexuality, abuse, effects of war, and appreciation for their identities as womyn.

This year's production included a new monologue about transgender awareness, and it also had Spanish and music incorporated. The production was dedicated to the

womyn of Iraq and to inspiring womyn in our lives who have passed in the last year. None of the above was acknowledged.

Within the article there were also a number of inaccuracies. The Vagina Monologues has been on this campus for five years. For three years it was a student run project. For the past two years a feminist organization named EMPOWER created a scholarship program for outstanding CSUMB capstones that relate to stopping violence against womyn.

Another inaccuracy was the image used for the article. There were a plethora of images taken in our rehearsals by an *Otter Realm* photographer but the community sees an innocent covered vagina with pink and yellow flowers around it. That image completely counteracts the piece and the movement.

Being a part of the Vagina Monologues allows every participant to explore their feminisms within a safe community of womyn. It is time to recognize injustices and that the vagina is not always pretty; it's a complex world.

The vagina is not a shy sexual hole absent of identity that waits to be used for male sexual pleasure and domination. The

vagina is a place that has been discredited, violated, and manipulated by patriarchal society. On this campus we as womyn are continually subjected to oppression through rape, sexual harassment, domestic abuse, and misogyny found in ignorant comments in class and jokes at parties.

The Vagina Monologues is about revaluing and empowering the vagina. We as a community have come together to raise awareness and stop the cycle of violence against womyn. We are no longer victims or silent participants; we are standing up as survivors, witnesses, and warriors in an ongoing struggle against sexism.

Our efforts are incredibly successful as we played to sold out audiences for the fifth year in a row, raising money and exposing the vagina positive message to thousands of students, faculty, staff, family and community members.

Positive efforts for social change should be rewarded on this campus and we hope that in the future the Otter Realm will make a better attempt to accurately and honestly spotlight these actions.

- Concerned Womyn of the Vagina Production

## Editor's Response

Dear Concerned Womyn,

The *Realm* is constantly making a most sincere and strenuous effort to inform the campus community in an unbiased and engaging way and will continue to do so for as long as I am Editor in Chief.

The Vagina Monologues was covered by staff reporter Ben Demarest in an even-handed and factual manner, save for the inaccuracy of the time period that the Vagina Monologues has been performed at CSUMB.

The womyn of EMPOWER and the Vagina Production have been rewarded by the "incredibly successful" play seen by "sold out audiences for the fifth year in a row," as quoted from your letter.

Myself and the *Realm* wish the womyn of the Vagina Production continued success and rewards in their quest for social justice and the advancement of their purpose.

- Rachel Kane, Editor in Chief





## A cry for courtesy: Skateboarders, let us sleep: One *Realm* reporter throws her two cents in about twilight skaters

By Katrice Miller, Staff Reporter  
KATRICE\_MILLER@CSUMB.EDU

Is it just me or is there an influx of skateboarders around? Don't get me wrong, I think skateboarding as a means of getting places is cool.

I even think that a few tricks here and there are cool too and the skateboarders outside of the Halls will move if you ask them nicely.

Plus, who knows, CSUMB may even be harboring the next Tony Hawk.

The only issues I have with the

skaters are the tricks that they do late at night or really early in the morning by the North Quad and the Residence Halls.

2 a.m. is not the best time to be doing kickflips, ollies, and rail grindings or any other trick for that matter. It's really annoying.

How would you like to be in a deep sleep late one evening after a long day of school and work and hear crashing noises and yells of triumph and defeat coming towards your window?

Some people might say, "Oh it's fine." But really, it's annoying.

The noise of oncoming skat-

ers is not as big a hassle as the noise from skateboarders landing or not landing the tricks that they perform.

"But practice makes perfect," they say. And how right they are.

Landing a new trick does take practice, but why must that practice go on in front of places where people are sleeping, and why at two in the morning?

I applaud the skaters' efforts. Some of the tricks I've seen are amazing and look pretty risky. I'm not knocking them as skateboarders at all. What upsets me is

the time they choose to perform their Evil Knievel-esque stunts.

So here's an idea: we need to get the skaters somewhere they may skate freely and loudly at all times, like a skate park.

I know it's easier said than done, but for the sanity of those who like quiet at night it's a great idea.

Yes, of course there is liability, but think of it this way: there's also less noise, a safe community for skaters and something for the skateboarding community to do.

Yes, there is money involved, but how about taking some of

those "student fees" we are charged every year and giving the skateboarders a place to call their own.

To the skateboarders who are great at what they do and are respectful of others, you guys are awesome, but to the 2 a.m. crowd, I love being up late at night, but when I have an 8 a.m. class and my sleep is disturbed by you doing a trick outside my window, it's not so cute.

Show your friend your moves in the daytime when people are not trying to rest.

### Otter Oops

#### Corrections & Retractions from Vol. 11, No. 1 - February 17, 2005

- The article "President Smith resigns" was continued on page 5
- The paper published on February 17, 2005 was Volume number 12, Number 1
- The Vagina Monologues has been performed at CSUMB for five years
- The Editor in Chief of the Otter Realm should have been Rachel Kane
- The Managing Editor of the Otter Realm should have been Adam Joseph

• The staff reporters for the Otter Realm should have been printed as follows: Madelyne Aseltine, Benjamin Demarest, Paul Diecidue, Amanda Folliard, Justin Kisner, Michael Lewis, M. Cristina Medina, Katrice Miller, Marian Muhammad, Erin Nokes, Anette Partida, James Schellenberg, Kimbrey Solana, F. Josh Warren

• The production staff for the Otter Realm should have been printed as follows: Michelle Burke, Alexander Chapman, Sara Dowe, Chad Ghiron, Darrell Hirashima, Adam Joseph, Rachel Kane, Justin Kisner, M. Cristina Medina, Erin Nokes, Aldo Vargas



News 831.582.4066  
Advertising 831.582.4346  
E-mail otter\_realm@csumb.edu  
www.otterrealm.net

Editor-in-Chief  
Rachel Kane  
Managing Editor  
Adam Joseph

Adviser  
Juanita Darling  
Production Adviser  
Bobbi Long

Production Editor  
Aldo Vargas

Copy Editor  
Michelle Burke  
Photo Editor  
Chad Ghiron

Online Editor  
Mac Clemmens  
News Editor  
Alexander Chapman

Sports Editor  
Darrell Hirashima

A&E Editor  
Adam Joseph

Advertising Manager  
Sherylen Duong

#### Staff Reporters

Madeline Aseltine, Benjamin Demarest, Paul Diecidue, Amanda Folliard, Justin Kisner, Michael Lewis, M. Cristina Medina, Katrice Miller, Marian Muhammad, Erin Nokes, Anette Partida, James Schellenberg, Kimbrey Solana, F. Josh Warren

#### Production Staff

Michelle Burke, Alexander Chapman, Sara Dowe, Chad Ghiron, Darrell Hirashima, Adam Joseph, Rachel Kane, Justin Kisner, M. Cristina Medina, Erin Nokes, Aldo Vargas



# Answering the call to intergalactic service

Chad Rede, Staff Reporter  
CHAD\_REDE@CSUMB.EDU

While Amy Dixon is taking her spring finals at CSUMB, her friends in Southern California will be camping out in front of a movie theater for 10 days saving her a place in line for the sixth and final episode of the "Star Wars" series.

"I've always been a "Star Wars" fan," said Dixon, a 20-year-old

Dixon's Southern California "base" of the Rebel Legion volunteers their services to several charitable organizations throughout the region.

"I didn't want to just dress up," said Dixon. "I wanted to do something active in the

hospital visit in San Diego, where she and her group meet with children who are permanent residents of the hospital. There, they meet with

the kids in the game room to give performances, play games, and sign autographs.

"We have to stay in character," said Dixon. "If someone asks where

services to organizations such as Toys for Tots and City of Hope. "I see a lot of cancer patients," explains Dixon. "It's a good feeling to make a child that ill feel good for a day. Their whole face will light up, and that makes it worth your while."

Because of her school schedule, Dixon does most of her participation over the summer. She prefers the organization of her Southern

California base to that which includes the Monterey Area.

"Northern California includes Hawaii and Alaska. It's too scattered," she says.

She doesn't mind the stigma of being a "nerd" or "geek" that comes along with being a "Star Wars" super-fan. "We don't care. If you have something you like, why hide it? Especially if it's worth while."

Han [Solo] is, I have to explain that he's working on his spaceship with Chewbacca." They also make room visits for the children who are too sick to get out of bed.

Dixon has also contributed her

HCOM major. For nearly three years she has been an active member of the Rebel Legion, an organization of fans who enjoy dressing up in authentic "Star Wars" costume. The group does more than attend conventions and debate in online chat rooms though.

community."

One of her favorite events is the annual



## Person On Campus

*Have you ever had anything stolen from you on campus?  
What was it?*

Chad Ghiron, Photo editor  
CHAD\_GHIRON@CSUMB.EDU

**Alex Hofmann**  
ESSP  
SENIOR

"No, yeah, n, nope, yea, well, no, my couch."



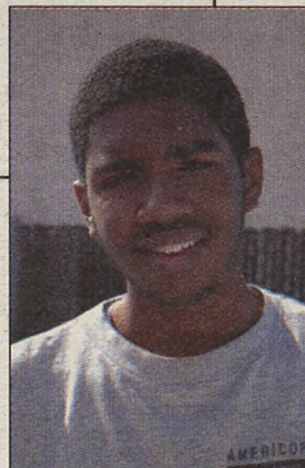
**Diana Moreno**  
ESSP  
SOPHOMORE

"My boyfriend was stolen this semester, besides that, nah, I don't remember."



**Kimathi Hill**  
TAT  
SOPHOMORE

"I might have lost it; I once got my graphing calculator stolen."



**Valerie Morris**  
BUS  
SENIOR

"All my years here I have never had anything stolen."

